



Town of Montague
Department, Board, Committee, Commission
BUDGET NARRATIVE

FY 24

Complete this form electronically! Be clear and concise!

Department: Health Department Submitted by: Melanie Ames Zamojski

- 1. Please describe and provide the rationale for any notable changes in your FY24 budget request.**

Increased office budget from \$3,000 to \$4,500 due increase in office supplies
Increased mileage to include reimbursement for animal control which has not previously been charged for
Recommend \$1,000. Stipend as a one-time fee for Medical Director, we are currently without a Medical Director
- 2. To this point in FY23, have you enhanced or expanded the programs and services you provide, or implemented new tools or technology that you'd like the Finance Committee and Selectboard to know about? Please describe.**

The ongoing COVID pandemic (and now compounded by flu and RSV) involve increased public notification of safety procedures, with mailings, in-house printing. Additionally, the public health nurse has been precepting public health students from UMASS. The last class of students have provided valuable information about our community's health and recommendations.
- 3. Are there presently challenges to your department's ability to meet its goals and requirements due to its FY23 operating budget? If so, offer any your recommendations you may have for improving the situation in FY24.**

The Health Department is currently without a Medical Director, which has significantly limited the ability of the department to provide vaccines to the community. The Department is currently seeking someone to fill the role. New Public Health Performance Standards are expected to go into effect within the next year.
- 4. Did you receive funding for any special articles in FY22 or FY23? Please list them and share the current status of those expenditures/projects.**

The Board of Health and Health Department has entered into two cooperative agreements with collaboratives providing Public Health services.

 1. Montague is a part of the Greenfield, Montague, Deerfield, and Sunderland Public Health Collaborative. This grant funded the cost of additional nurse hours. Robin has provided a focus on COVID related interventions, contact tracing, employer assistance, and cluster investigation. Additionally, this grant provided an epidemiologist who has assisted to interpret data and community testing results. As a group the collaborative developed a "traffic light" system of community warning for increasing or decreasing COVID risk. (Seen weekly in a local paper)
 2. This year Montague agreed to work with a second collaborative group of the above communities and also include Leverett and Shutesbury. This collaborative is focused on providing a health agent to be available to the communities either as needed or to those towns without a health agent. Additionally, this grant also provides additional nursing hours. As this grant has only been recently approved, it is still in the early planning stages.